

Message Text

SECRET

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APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.
S/S - MR. ORTIZ
S - DPASSAGE

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O 141658Z MAY 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 119076

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY TALKING POINTS FOR ASAD ON PEACE
PROCESS

1. SEPTTEL FROM SECRETARY AUTHORIZES YOU TO PRESENT YOUR
TALKING POINTS ON THE PEACE PROCESS. SECRETARY HAS
APPROVED THE ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS IN PARA TWO BELOW.

2. A. INSERT FOLLOWING TWO POINTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE
PARAGRAPH WHICH BEGINS "TO SUM UP, OUR PURPOSE IS TO FIND
THE MEANS TO ADVANCE A SERIOUS DEBATE ON TERRITORIAL
ISSUES."

--THE NEED TO FACE UP TO DECISIONS ON TERRITORIAL WITH-
DRAWAL, INCLUDING FROM WEST BANK TERRITORY WHERE PALES-
TINIANS LIVE, WOULD FORCE ISRAEL TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT
IT DOES NOT OTHERWISE HAVE TO FACE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
INTERNAL FERMENT IN ISRAEL OVER PRESENT ISRAELI POLICIES
WITH RESPECT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND A SETTLEMENT.

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ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL AND PUBLIC OPINION IN ISRAEL, AND

AMONG SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL IN THE U.S., ARE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF PRESENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICIES, INCLUDING TOWARD THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION.

THE VERY BEST WAY TO ENCOURAGE ISRAELI RE-THINKING OF THEIR POLICIES IS TO GET THEM ENGAGED IN A NEGOTIATING PROCESS OF THE KIND WE HAVE PREVAILED ON THEM TO AGREE TO. THIS WILL, HOWEVER, REQUIRE AN ARAB RESPONSE, AS WELL AS AN ATMOSPHERE OF GREATER CALM IN THE AREA -- BOTH IN LEBANON AND IN THE REGION GENERALLY. IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE THE ABSENCE OF ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE AND PUBLICIZED PRESSURES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, WHICH ONLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING ISRAELIS MORE INTRACTABLE, OF FREEZING THE HEALTHY INTERNAL DEBATE NOW GOING ON, OF COALESCING ISRAELIS AROUND THE HARDLINERS IN ISRAEL, AND OF MUTING VOICES IN THE U.S. WHICH ARE URGING ISRAEL TO ADOPT MORE FLEXIBLE AND REALISTIC POLICIES.

B. INSERT FOLLOWING TWO POINTS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PARAGRAPH WHICH BEGINS "FINALLY, WE KNOW YOUR DETERMINATION TO BRING THE PALESTINIANS INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS."

--WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONTINUED CRISIS IN LEBANON HAS PRE-OCCUPIED ALL AREA GOVERNMENTS AND DISTRACTED ATTENTION FROM PEACE PROCESS. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT LEBANESE CRISIS, IF NOT STABILIZED AND SET ON PATH TOWARD SOLUTION, CAN ITSELF ENDANGER PEACE PROCESS.

--IN ADDITION TO OUR DISTRESS OVER LOSS OF LIFE AND THREAT TO VERY FABRIC OF LEBANESE STATE, THIS THREAT TO PEACE PROCESS IS A FURTHER REASON WHY WE HAVE BEEN SO CONCERNED TO SEE AN END TO LEBANESE CRISIS. KISSINGER

SECRET

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